

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## CMS Orders Wellpoint to Stop Selling Certain Medicare Products

Concord, NH – January 16, 2009 The New Hampshire Insurance Department was notified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that CMS has ordered WellPoint, Inc. and its commonly owned and affiliated companies (WellPoint) to suspend the marketing and sales of new Wellpoint Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan products. WellPoint products affected in New Hampshire are sold under the names “Blue MedicareRx” and “SmartValue” by WellPoint, Inc.

New Hampshire had, as of 12/31/07, 11,459 Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in these plans. These Medicare beneficiaries will continue to receive the same health care services and prescription drug coverages they now have. They will not lose any coverage.

The suspension became effective on January 12, 2009. The sanctions were imposed for failure to comply with certain CMS requirements concerning enrollments and disenrollments, benefits administration, grievances and appeals, marketing, claims processing, coordination of benefits, billing, and meeting call center and customer service requirements.

New Hampshire Medicare beneficiaries with questions or concerns should call the number on the back of their member ID cards or WellPoint at 1-866-571-6535. Consumers may also contact the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at 1-800-MEDICARE. Consumers who continue to have concerns or questions after contacting WellPoint and CMS may contact the New Hampshire Insurance Department at 1-800-852-3416.

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## ABOUT THE NH INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

The first insurance regulator in the US, the NH Insurance Department was created in 1851 and charged with enforcing and administering New Hampshire’s insurance laws. The department, an agency of the executive branch of New Hampshire state government,

**conducts safety and soundness and market conduct examinations of licensees, licenses insurance companies and insurance producers, reviews premium rates and policy forms, provides assistance, information and referral services to New Hampshire insurance consumers, and administers the filing and collection of New Hampshire's insurance premium tax. For more information, visit the Insurance Department's web site at: [www.nh.gov/insurance](http://www.nh.gov/insurance).**